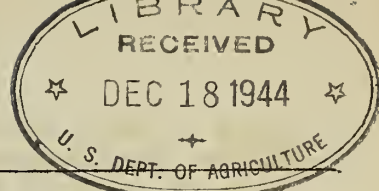


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Administration



No. 19

AMA "WAR BOARD" LETTER

Wash., D.C., June 6, 1942

CONTAINERS: Expect announcement soon that there will be NO more burlap for agriculture for the duration of the war, except that now in hands of bag manufacturers. However, bag situation is said to be fairly favorable and additional quantities of osnaburg bagging are expected to be allocated for farm use. OAWR says that WPB orders M-107 and L-99, shifting spindle activity, are doing a good job in increasing osnaburg production. OAWR is suggesting a vigorous campaign to see that bags used this year get back to farmers and in good shape. Careful handling is necessary. Word on osnaburg: bagging experts feel that it will stand four or five trips from farm if handled carefully. Several million yards of this bagging have been made available to West Coast bag manufacturers for handling grain crop there. Price of 2-bushel bags made from it is around 30¢. This is high compared with previous burlap prices, but careful use and re-use can cut cost. Report from Oregon WB reveals that plant in Washington is making "durable" paper grain bag for storing wheat, priced at 8¢. Manufacturer is to be requested to put flap on this bag so that sample may be taken without opening bag. TIN CANS getting tighter. Further curtailment of uses expected soon. BOXES, CRATES, HAMPERS, EGG CASES: situation about same (WB Letters 17 and 18).

LABOR: Will be action soon in connection with farm labor situation. Too early to say what will happen, but something may be expected on housing and transportation of migratory farm workers and an effort will be made to arrive at a more definite understanding with the Selective Service System as to what are essential farm workers. Action will involve directives from the Man Power Commission that are expected to coordinate activities of a number of agencies concerned with farm labor. Just how soon is not known, but every effort is being made to expedite same.

FISH: AMA has been designated by WPB as the agency to purchase all government requirements of canned salmon, pilchards, sea herring, sardines and mackerel, from the 1942 pack. WPB order M-86-b of May 26 asked packers to hold the entire 1942 pack of these fish to meet government requirements first. According to present information, at least 2,500,000 cases of canned salmon will be required for Army, Navy and Lend-Lease from an estimated pack of 5,400,000 cases this year, and AMA expects to take at least 50 per cent of anticipated production of the other canned fish. But size of pack is very uncertain, particularly of salmon, so option-to-purchase contracts are being completed by AMA which will enable salmon packers operating in Alaska to receive indemnification up to 80 per cent of certain losses incurred as result of enemy action or action of the U.S. Government in connection with the war effort. Packers' rights under this option-to-purchase contract will be retroactive to May 29. The contracts will assure the undertaking of fishing in Alaskan waters that might otherwise not be undertaken because of the extraordinary risks that must be assumed this year.

VICTORY FOOD SPECIALS: Information program continuing and coverage by press, radio and advertising media indicates popular acceptance. Tomatoes will be designated for national merchandising drive during period June 29-July 4. Most tomatoes on consumer markets then will be from East Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana and South Carolina, where harvest should reach peak shortly after mid-June. The crop from these areas is expected to be 30% above last year and 15% above average. In the works is a national merchandising program for broilers and fryers, which may be announced for the period after mid-July.

EGGS: A press release and statements for War Boards, Extension Service and Production Credit Associations have been prepared in connection with the proposed drive to maintain high peak of egg production. Decision will be made June 8 as to date of launching program, which will call for increased production through more efficient handling rather than through expansion of flocks and production facilities. A war emergency conference of the Nation's vastly expanded dried egg industry, called by the AMA, and the National Egg Products Association, will be held June 12 and 13 at the Bismarck Hotel, Chicago. Approximately 300 representatives of the egg drying industry have been invited to attend. Discussions will cover technical details and methods of egg drying, developed by USDA technicians.

POULTRY: Representatives of poultry canning and processing industry have been invited to conference with AMA officials here on June 22. Will discuss new L-L purchase program for canned boned chicken and turkey. American Poultry Institute, National Poultry and Egg Board, can manufacturers and equipment makers also will be represented at conference. Officials of BAI, BHE, BAC&E and F&DA are expected to attend. Topics for discussion will include methods of inspection, purchase procedure, availability of critical materials needed for canning poultry, possibility of utilizing by-products and related subjects. AMA officials will attend an emergency National Poultry Improvement Plan conference to be held at the Morrison Hotel, June 10, 11 and 12 under the auspices of the BAI.

FARM CONSTRUCTION PERMITS: OAWR is handling close to 100 applications a day now. Has handled between 800 and 900 since May 14. OAWR is passing on applications in a day's time. WPB is somewhat behind in its consideration of applications, but removal of its Bureau of Construction, section handling applications, to New York City, is expected to speed up action. Flat rejections of applications by either OAWR or WPB have been very small. However, a number of applications have been approved with critical materials, such as sheet metal roofing for barns, left out.

ONIONS: To meet unfavorable situation in producing areas, AMA, AAA, OAWR and WPB have combined program calling for "all possible means of relief." AMA has three programs in operation on onions: Purchases are being made in producing areas, they are now designated a "Victory Food Special" and are on food stamp list.

FOOD REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE; with Secretary of Agriculture Wickard as chairman, has been set up. Other agencies represented on committee are War, Navy, State, BEW, L-L Administration and WPB. Committee will have complete control over production and distribution of foods and regulation of the type of foodstuffs grown for American and foreign diets. It will determine civilian, military and foreign food requirements and direct domestic production and imports of food in line with demand. Under the program set up for the committee, USDA will be responsible for: 1. Increasing or limiting domestic production in accordance with committee decisions: 2. The earlier stages of food production in general: 3. Importation of foods and materials from which foods are derived and: 4. Formulation of programs for conservation of critical foods or agricultural materials from which foods are derived.